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ABSTRACT

Noting that helping children deal with the ups and downs of friendship is one of the challenges parents face, this activity booklet provides a read-aloud story for parents to share with their children to help them deal with friendship and peer relationships. The story features the Public Broadcasting System characters Arthur and his sister D.W., and includes suggested questions for parents to ask their children. The booklet also contains a game for parents and children to play together, and suggests books and Arthur videotapes with stories about friendship. Tips for parents include the following: (1) discuss "getting along" rules; (2) take time to listen; and (3) be supportive. The booklet concludes with specific suggestions for parents of children ages 3 to 5 years, 5 to 7 years, and 7 to 9 years. (KB)

The Ups & Downs of Friendship

AN ACTIVITY BOOKLET FOR PARENTS AND KIDS

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Ever feel caught
in the middle? Look inside
for a story, a game, and good
tips on getting along
with friends.

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Dear Parents,

Arthur and his friends, like my kids and yours, are learning to get along with each other. One minute they're arguing, the next minute they're having a great time.

Helping our children deal with the ups and downs of friendship is one of the challenges we face as parents. We hope that sharing ARTHUR stories in books and on television can be a place to start. This Activity Booklet contains a story, "My Club Rules," and activities for you to do with your kids. There are also tips and information for parents.

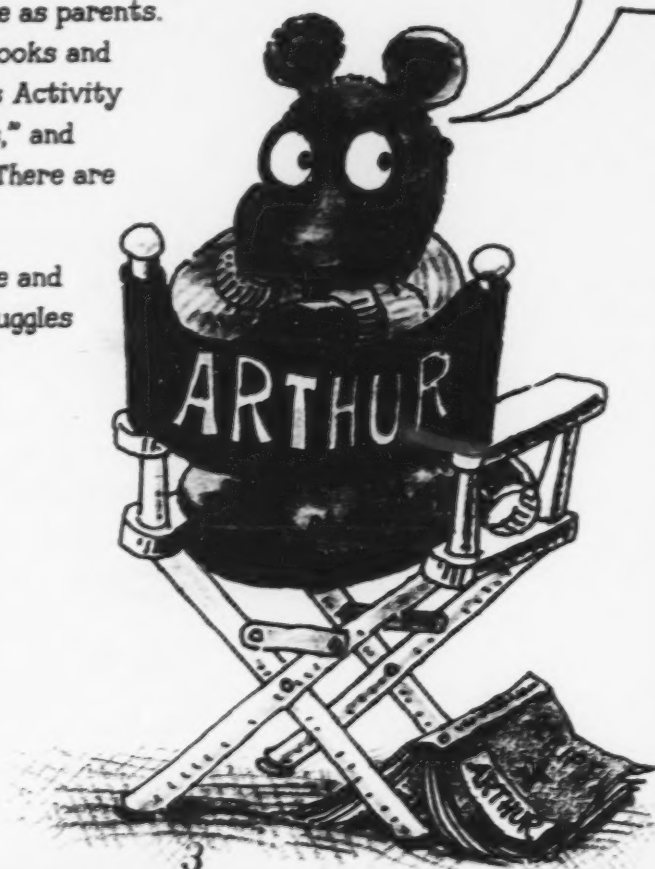
We hope you enjoy watching ARTHUR as he and his friends work through their many struggles and successes in getting along together.

Sincerely,

Carol Greenwald

Executive Producer, ARTHUR

Watch ARTHUR[®]
on PBS[®]. It's on
every weekday!





My Club Rules

Adapted from the ARTHUR PBS Series

A
Read-Aloud
Story for
Parents and
Kids

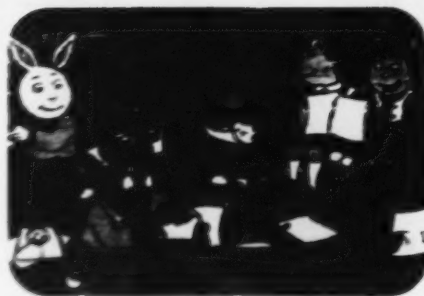
Arthur and his friends are in the tree house. They're planning a float for the Strawberry Festival parade. "We can all ride a giant pepperoni pizza," Buster suggests.

"Oh, no," groans Francine, pointing out the window. "Here comes Arthur's little sister D.W. She follows him everywhere."

"Sorry, D.W. You can't come in," says Muffy. "This is a meeting of the Parade Float Club. Members only."

"A club?" says D.W. "I love clubs! How do I join?"
"You must draw a funny picture of Mr. Ratburn," says Francine.

All the kids draw. Arthur and his friends look at one another's pictures and laugh. Then D.W. holds up her picture. "So, am I in the club?" asks D.W. "No," says Arthur. "Your picture isn't funny enough."



"Oh, brother!" says D.W. and she leaves in disgust.

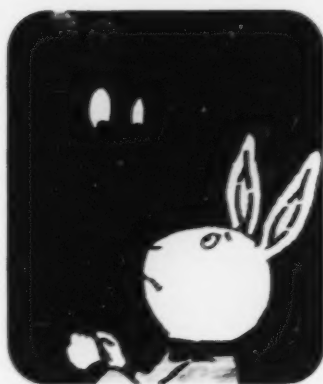
"Good," says Francine. "We could use more rules in this club."

"We should charge dues!" says Muffy.

"Wait!" protests Arthur. "The tree house has always been free."

"If you don't like our ideas, we'll make our own club," snaps Muffy. "Let's go, Francine! Our clubhouse will have computer games." "Computer games?" says Buster. "Wait, Muffy! I'm coming, too!"





At the new clubhouse, Muffy says, "Dues are 50¢ for Francine and me, and \$1.00 for you, Buster." "That's not fair!" says Buster.

Buster heads back to the tree house.

"Hi," he says. "Can I come in?"

"No," says Arthur. "Read our new club rules, Sue Ellen."

"Anyone can join except Buster Baxter who's a rotten traitor for joining Muffy's stinky club," Sue Ellen reads.

"Big deal," says Buster. "I'll make my own club."

Soon everyone has his or her own club.

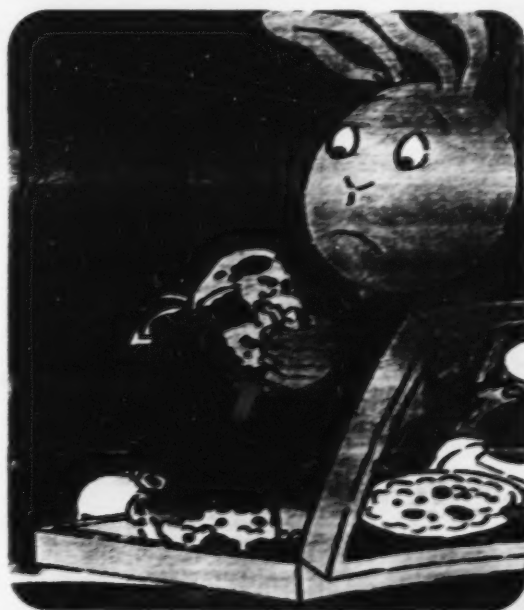
Buster has his own Reading Comic Books Under a Blanket Club.

Sue Ellen has her own Reading and Walking Club.

And Brain has The Fun Club.

But with just one member, the club meetings aren't very much fun.

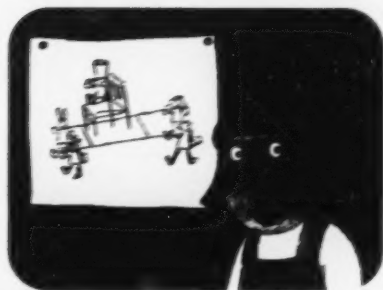
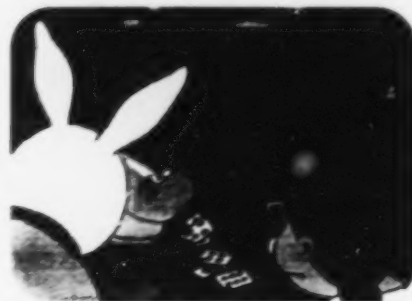
**What do you think
is going to happen?**





Arthur hears someone singing
in the tree house. He climbs
up to see who is there.
"Oh, it's you, D.W.," he says.
"I thought it was Francine."
"Where is everybody?" asks D.W.

Just then, Buster and Muffy walk by.
"Can we come up?" they call.
"Sure!" says Arthur. Francine, Binky,
Sue Ellen, and Brain turn up, too.
Soon the tree house is full of kids.



"This is a great club!" D.W. says.
"And I have a great idea for the
parade." Together the kids
build an Egyptian float.

Arthur and his friends
take turns carrying
the float in the parade.
D.W. rides on top!

"D.W. has good ideas,"
Muffy says to Francine.
"Yes," says Francine.
"I don't know why
Arthur wouldn't let her
into the club in the
first place!"



Ask Your Kids:

- When do you think Arthur and his friends were having the most fun?
- What's your favorite thing to do with friends?
- Do you and your friends like to make up rules when you play? What sort of rules do you have?



Activity

Me and My Pals

A Game for Parents and Kids

Tell one
reason why
you are a
good friend.

Name something
that you like
to do with a big
group of friends.

Name a friend
and tell what
the two of
you like to do
together.

Name something
nice that a
friend once did
for you.

Start



How to Play

- 1 Each player will need a game marker, such as a button or paper clip.
- 2 Players take turns tossing a coin. Heads means move 1 space. Tails means move 2 spaces.
- 3 If you land on a yellow space, answer the question or follow the directions.
- 4 If you land on a dark blue space, take the shortcut.
- 5 If you land on an Arthur space, do one of these things:
 - Make up a club handshake. Teach it to the other players.
 - Sing part of the theme song from ARTHUR.
 - Pretend to be one of the kids on ARTHUR. Let the other players guess who you are.
- 6 The game ends when all players are in the tree house.

Watch ARTHUR!

Watch these ARTHUR shows with your children, or ask them to tell you the story. It's a good way to start a conversation about getting along with friends. You can find these ARTHUR home videos at your library, video store, or bookstore. Read the books, too!



Arthur Makes the Team

The whole team groans when Arthur steps up to bat. Can Coach Frensky figure out a way to help the kids build team spirit, be good sports, and have fun?

ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How do Arthur and Francine feel about their baseball team?
- What do Francine and Arthur do that helps solve the problem?
- Have you ever been on a team where some of the players were not very good? How did you feel about it? What can a team do to help everyone have more fun?

Arthur's Tooth

Everyone in Arthur's class has lost a tooth—except Arthur. Francine teases him and calls him a baby.

ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Why do you think Francine teased Arthur?
- How do you think Arthur felt? What did he do? What else do you think he could have done?
- Have your friends ever teased you? How did you feel? What did you say or do?



Read On!

The friends in these stories share adventures and good times. Sometimes they argue. Read and talk about these books with your kids. They'll get lots of good ideas about ways friends can have fun and solve problems.



The Adventures of Sugar and Junior by Angela Shelf Medearis. (Holiday House) These best friends are lucky. They live in the same apartment building! (Ages 6-8)



Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel. (HarperCollins) Five funny stories about two great pals. (Ages 4-8)



Jamaica and Brianna by Juanita Havill. (Houghton Mifflin) When Brianna says that Jamaica is wearing boy boots, Jamaica says that Brianna's boots are ugly. (Ages 3-6)



Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear by Lensey Namioka. (Yearling Books) Yang and his friend Matthew would love to trade places. (Ages 7 and up)

For Parents

photo: Lisa Tanner

Tips for Parents: Friendship

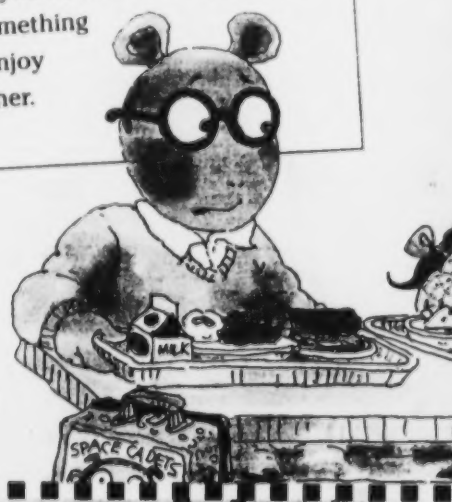
You can help your children deal with the ups and downs of friendship by listening, being supportive, and sharing friendship stories from your own life. Here are some ideas you can try.



1 Discuss "getting along" rules.

Talk with your kids about these basic rules for getting along with other people.

- Use your words when you are angry. It's not OK to hit.
- Treat each other with respect. Don't yell or call names.
- Listen to each other's ideas.
- Don't stay angry once the situation is over. Remember good or funny times you've had with the person. Do something you enjoy together.



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2

Take time to listen.

As often as possible, set aside time to relax and talk with your child.

- Choose a low-stress time to chat together, such as mealtime, bath-time, bedtime, or on the bus.
- Let your child talk about things that interest him or her.
- Listen, ask questions, and share stories from your own life. This is a time to learn more about your child's world and what your child thinks and feels.



3

Be supportive.

If your child is upset, try these ideas.

- Listen sympathetically. Ask questions to find out more: *That sounds like it was hard. What happened next? How did you feel?* Often just talking about the situation and feelings will help your child feel better.
- Stay calm. Try not to react too strongly. Remember that each child involved will have her or his own idea of what happened.
- Let your child be a problem solver. You might say, *I know it feels bad that Nia won't share her ball. What can you do to make yourself feel better?*



PARENTS' CORNER

"When my daughter was being teased by her friends, we talked about different things she could do. She could try to take the teasing as a joke, tell her friends to cut it out, hang out with other friends, ask a grownup for help, etc. It helped her to know that she had choices; there were things she could try."—Laurie K.

"I try to help my child think good things about himself. If he believes good things about himself, then he will be able to walk away from the teasing and not be bothered by it."—Ruthdelia A.

"I tell my child that when kids tease him, they're looking for a response. If he cries or yells, they will tease him more. If he yawns, like it's old news, he will get teased less."
—Anthony M.

For Parents

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Ages and Stages

As kids grow older, their understandings about friendship change. Gradually, they learn how to give and take, control their anger, and see someone else's point of view. At each stage, there are ways you can support your child's growth.



Ages 3-5

- Children this age are only able to see things from their own point of view. They tend to focus on one thing at a time. If two kids both want to play with the same toy, this can lead to conflict.
- Children need to be reminded to use their words, not their fists.

YOU CAN help kids talk about their own feelings. You might say, *You tied your own shoes! You must feel so proud!* or *Lisa wasn't very friendly to you. Are your feelings hurt?* Learning to name their own feelings is a first step toward recognizing the feelings of others.

Ages 5-7

- Children this age are still self-centered. They often can't really understand another person's feelings.
- Friendly play is often stopped by arguments about who goes first, who cheated, and who won.

YOU CAN provide opportunities for your children to play with other kids at the park, at home, or other places. Getting along with friends is something that kids must learn to do. The more they practice, the better they get!





Ages 7-9

- Children are beginning to understand that others have feelings, too. However, it is still hard for them to see things from the other child's point of view.
- Children this age really want to belong to a group. Yet, groups of children often gossip, exclude, and make fun of others.

YOU CAN help children become more aware of how their words and actions affect their friends. Ask, *How would you feel if someone said or did that to you?* Help your children think of creative ways to solve their conflicts. Ask, *Can you think of what to do so both of you would feel OK?*



PARENTS' CORNER

"My daughter's friends told her they didn't want to play with her. She was so upset. I told her a story about something similar that happened to me. I talked about how I felt, and what I did."—Elana B.

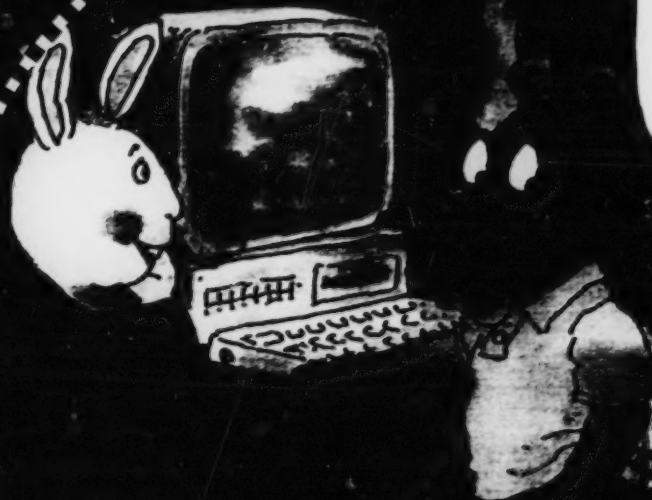
"When a friend rejects your child's invitation to play house or ball, encourage your child to ask, 'Do you want to play something else?' This helps your child sort out whether the friend does not want to play house or ball now, or does not want to play with your child now."—Jim D.

"My grandson was sad because his friend didn't want to play with him anymore. At first I said, 'Play with other kids.' But that didn't seem helpful. So then I just listened and said things like, 'It sounds like your feelings are really hurt,' and 'You wish your friend would play with you like he used to.' That made a big difference."
—Ana Margarita C.



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There are lots of fun things for you to do with your family on the ARTHUR Web site. Check it out at www.pbskids.org/arthur

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